

Japanese-British Negotiations from 1930 to
Outbreak of War.

By OHTA, Third Sect., European
Bureau, F. N.

Please handle this document with care, because I obtained this information under the agreement that I would never write it down.

Information from Commander ICHIKAWA, Bureau of Naval Affairs, N. N., to me on 20th is as follows: He told me to keep it absolutely secret.

- (1) A German armed merchant cruiser followed by a supply ship (her old name is the "Ole Jacob") is now anchoring at an uninhabited island called "Oo Island" south of the Bonin Islands. She sailed up there because she seemed to have been spied upon by the British Intelligence as to her location because of her use of wireless in the South Sea Islands where she went to be repaired. The foregoing vessels are prohibited to use wireless, and connection is being kept by the S. S. Regensburg.
- (2) The S. S. Regensburg, which is responsible for keeping contact with the cruiser, sailed from YOKOHAMA Dec. 20. After receiving captured documents from the cruiser, she entered HACHINOE Harbor in AOMORI Prefecture to get contact with the German officials there. Being supplied with oil by the Imperial Navy at OMINATO BASE, she sailed out and is not due to come back until the latter part of February.
- (3) The S. S. Munsterland, supply ship, which is now anchoring in KOBE Harbor has almost finished loading supplies, is to be furnished with oil in the night of 20th of this month outside the harbor. These supplies include a plane (the plane on the cruiser is unserviceable), and gasoline. She is to leave there on 24th for "Oo Island, mentioned above.
- (4) During the operations of the German cruiser in the South Seas, the Imperial Navy has supplied her with various precious materials. Besides, Japan has been strongly opposed by Britain. The naval authorities want to impress the Germans with the amount of the sacrifices Japan has made in accordance with the Tripartite Pact and hope to utilize

this fact in negotiating with them. For instance, we consider this will be utilized in refusing Germany's proposal that she should receive French-Indo-China rubber.

- (5) The cruiser, now lying at anchor temporarily at MOU, when supplied by the S. S. Munsterland, is to sail for the Indian Ocean on February 4. ICHIKAWA's reply was vague when I (OHTA) asked if it was the result of the request to leave made by the Imperial Navy. However, the manner in which he replied indicated that it was so.
- (6) The "Munsterland" is to sail for KURE from KOBE at first to get pilots, and expects to sail by night, anchoring in the daytime. A Japanese warship will be dispatched for guard at her roadsteads. The destination of the ship shall be announced for the time being as South America, so that she shall not come back for about one and half months.
- (7) To my question as to what he thought about not letting the Regensburg and Munsterland enter YOKOHAMA and KOBE on their return, ICHIKAWA answered that there is absolutely no safe port, because foreign missionaries may reside at any port-town. However, port HACHINOE seemed to be comparatively safe for anchoring for a short time, so they let the Regensburg enter it as mentioned above. He recognized that much trouble would evolve if German vessels were allowed to enter non-open ports and were found by the British Intelligence.
- (8) Furthermore, the S. S. Elmland has left for her homeland.
- (9) Commander ICHIKAWA agreed with my proposal to call Germany attention again to her use of Japanese flags and the insignia of Japanese vessels by German armed merchant cruisers.

Summary of the representation of Japanese Naval Department to German military officers in Tokyo dated December 31, 1940, classified "very secret".

It is reported that a converted cruiser of yours fired on Maura Island. Our affording facilities to you being noised abroad by such an action of yours, disadvantage will occur to both of us. Furthermore, it is feared that the Empire (of Japan) may have some trouble in getting rock phosphate, as a result of this bombardment from Maura Island where she has been utilizing the products so far.

We hope you will be much more prudent in action considering the past instance of Emden's bombardment on Cocos Island.

British Intelligence being very active in the districts of Australia and in the Far East, they seem to be spying the action of your cruiser in inner South Seas, so it is desirable that you will prohibit strictly her use of wireless and shorten the period of anchorage.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I.P.S. No. 2160-1

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI, Kacru hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Japanese Government in the following capacity: Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto attached consisting of 6 pages, dated _____ 1941, and described as follows: Statement by ONITA, Third Secretary European Bureau, Foreign Ministry, reporting information from Commander ICHIKAWA, being a part of the Japanese-British negotiations from 1930 to outbreak of war and Summary of Proposal to the German Military Attache in Tokyo. I further certify that the attached record and document is an official document of the Japanese Government and that it is part of the official archives and files of the following named ministry or department (specifying also the file number or citation, if any, or any other official designation of the regular location of the document in the archives or files): Foreign Office.

Signed at Tokyo on this
25th day of Sept., 1946

/signed/ K. Hayashi
Signature of Official

SE

Witness: /s/ T. Sato

Chief of the Archives Section
Official Capacity

Statement of Official Procurement

I, John A. Curtis, hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above certification was obtained by me from the above signed official of the Japanese Government in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this
25th day of Sept., 1946

/signed/ J. A. Curtis. 2d Lt.

Witness: T/4 T. Toruchi /s/

Investigator
Official Capacity